THE Lions' Pride
OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2006 VOLUME XXXXVI NO. 7 SINCE 1965

photographs by staff

During the holiday ceremony, the manger was blessed and the tree was lit.

The Christmas season started with a tree lighting, a manger blessing, and music

BY JESSICA GRUBB
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Although a breezy and semi-wet Tuesday night, Nov 28, 2006 marked the seventh annual Saint Leo University Christmas brass concert and celebration. On this spectacular evening, students, faculty, and surrounding community members joined together to celebrate the season with the Christmas concert, tree lighting, and blessing of the manger.

At 7:30 p.m. in the Abbey church, a Christmas concert took place raining in the Christmas spirit with brass instruments and a large chorus.

"The concert was very uplifting, very Christmas like," stated Tony Pham, a Saint Leo senior. "It was subtle and very smooth."

After the concert, a procession followed to the front of campus where the chorus got together musically announcing the Christmas season by singing and illuminating the grounds with carols to be heard all over campus.

"It's nice being in the choir because we can bring the Christmas spirit to everyone through song," said Joe "Choda" Espinosa, a Saint Leo sophomore

After the initial blessing of the tree and nativity scene given by Father Michael, who spoke of new birth, new beginnings, and life, a very enlightened crowd was invited to the pavilion for refreshments, the chorus stayed in place to bless everyone with some Christmas favorites.

"This was actually my first tree lighting here at Saint Leo, and it was very nice. It really got me into the Christmas mood," said Brother Christopher, a monk at the Abbey.

Refreshments included churros, baklava, hot cocoa, cider, chocolate dipping sauce, marshmellows, pound cake, assorted cookies and dessert bars, and many holiday smiles.

This year's crowd was full of community members and Saint Leo University students and staff. Each was here to bring in the season a bit early with their blessings of holiday spirit.

"It's so emotional and beautiful," said Katie Ronzo and Roxanne Rongey. "It really begins the Christmas season for us. It motivates us to go Christmas shopping."

The carols were great and even with the warm weather in Florida it was easy to see holiday spirit in the faces of the attendees. Singing along and holding lit candles, everyone engaged his or her attention to the fabulous decorations.

"I used to sing in the choir here at Saint Leo. It's nice to come back and celebrate with everyone," said community member and retired Lutheran minister, Norman Springer.

This event seems to grow larger each year.

"Since we first began this event seven years ago, I've seen a large increase in attendance from the surrounding community," said Ana Di Donato, director of student involvement. "It's like we have become the Christmas program. It gets people in the spirit. We really couldn't do it without the support of The Tampa Tribune, the Saint Leo University music department, student involvement, University ministry, and Sodexho dining services."

Along with the concert, the tree lighting, and the blessing of the manger, the campus was illuminated with all of its wonderful lights located not only on the main tree but on all the trees, dorms, and pathways. A spectacular winter wonderland including frosty the snowman, Santa's toy-carrying train, and even the animals found in the manger were lit up. This winter wonderland was a great sight, and it really brought Christmas spirit to everyone. With the meaning of Christmas refreshed to all, and great decorations to reinforce holiday spirit, Saint Leo University truly began the season of Christmas.

Christmas vision is different for each person

BY NIKII BROWN
Lions' Pride Assistant Editor

It's that time again, and the Christmas spirit is in the air. The day after Thanksgiving is the biggest shopping day of the year and thousands of people are getting ready for the big holiday, but some Saint Leo University students don't feel the spirit.

"It doesn't feel like the holidays until I'm home. There's no fall colored leaves, no snow," Massachusetts resident Tyrell Johnson said.

Christmas for everyone has a different meaning and a different feeling. Most of the time, people look at it differently because of their cultures, religions, family values, or traditions. One thing that not all people think about is the difference in location; of course, it varies from country to country, but what about state to state?

When a person things about a southern Christmas, what are the typical holiday activities? Some students have Christmas parades in their towns, some go to the beach, and some drive around town looking at the lights up on trees and houses. Other students go out of town for Christmas and visit the northern states.

"If its above 65 degrees, I go to beach, but when I was little they would get shaved ice and cover the parking lot, and we made snow angels and had snow ball fights," said Florida resident Meaghan Tobin.

"Us hot people from the 305 go to Santa's Enchanted Forest, and there's no snow, just a lot of rides and a fat guy in a Santa suits," said Florida resident Teresa Guzman.

Then, what about the north? Sledding, making snowmen, snowball flights, and snow angels are just some of the activities that make Christmas feel like Christmas. Going caroling or Christmas tree picking in the cold with matching scarves and gloves is something that even the media portrays as typical Christmas activities.

Most Christmas movies and shows depict a northern winter Christmas; perhaps, this is why it doesn't feel like the holidays. People rely heavily on the media, and if the media says Christmas is snow, cold, and sledding, then that's the norm people follow, especially if they don't know anything different.

"Christmas time is supposed to be cold with snow on the ground and without any leaves on the trees. With that chill in the air when you

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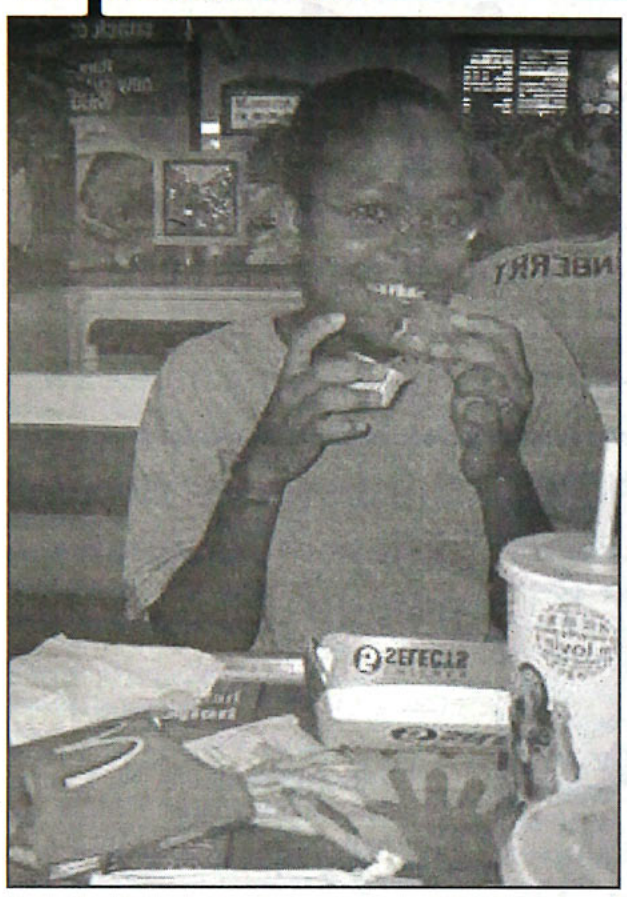
Opinions



photographs by Katelyn Gaiser

Freshman Cherokee King loves having McDonald's famous chicken selects every chance she gets; a McDonlad's cup could contain a diet coke; Freshmen Kristin Brittain and Simone Williams can't seem to get enough McDonald's ice cream.

Fast food: a growing epidemic

BY KATELYN GAISER
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Fast food is a growing epidemic in the United States causing many Americans to loosen their belt buckles and empty their wallets in surrender to the almighty French fry. In recent years, doctors and other health experts have been warning the country to stop eating garbage and start eating vegetables. Many Americans choose fast food over a home-cooked meal because it's quick, cheap, and easy. What they don't realize, however, is that the damaging effects of fast food can lead to shocking results including money loss, addiction, and serious health problems.

According to the book "Fast Food Nation" by Eric Schlosser, Americans now spend more money on fast food than on higher education, personal computers, computer software, or new cars. These staggering numbers are the reason why fast food companies have morphed into the billion dollar industries they are today. Americans buy this food mostly because they see it as a cheap and easy meal; however, the cost soon adds up. When people start to spend more money on food rather than the things essential to their lives, it becomes clear there is a problem. This issue is one reason Americans needs to stop giving into these companies and start spending their money on the necessities.

Another reason Americans need to stop giving into these companies is addiction. The average person who purchases fast food would most likely never consider it to be addictive. However, if enough of this food is consumed, it is very possible a person can become dependent on it. According to researchers from BBC America, fast food can be just as addictive as some major drugs, including morphine or nicotine. The chemicals in these products account for the brain's reaction and overall dependency for these foods; therefore, the more a person eats the more dependent their body becomes on these substances. Addiction to this food is extremely dangerous to a person's health and should be taken seriously because it can lead to other serious health problems.

Fast food is one of the unhealthiest substances a person can consume and is a major reason why more and more Americans are becoming obese. These products are packed with high amounts of fat, carbohydrates, and sodium people can't seem to resist, despite health experts telling Americans such amounts of substances are causing a great deal of health problems for many. Consuming too much of this food can cause conditions, including high blood pressure and diabetes; increased levels of fat consumed can also cause high cholesterol and heart disease. These conditions should be reason enough to stop consuming fast food. It is ultimately damaging to our nation's health to allow these companies to continue to seduce citizens.

Most nutritionists and other experts tell Americans to eat this food in moderation; however, it becomes clear most people consume way beyond their recommended daily allowance. This happens because fast food is appealing for many reasons and leaves people wanting more and more. In recent years, these companies have even started to offer more healthy options to keep its customers happy; they're adding more salads and taking away the larger portion options. Although these attempts have been made, it is ultimately the decision of the consumer to choose whether or not to eat fast food. Perhaps as more and more Americans become aware of these hazards, they will be able to make better choices for themselves and their families.

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Saint Leo Storytelling Festival

"Celebration of the Story: Catching Life,"

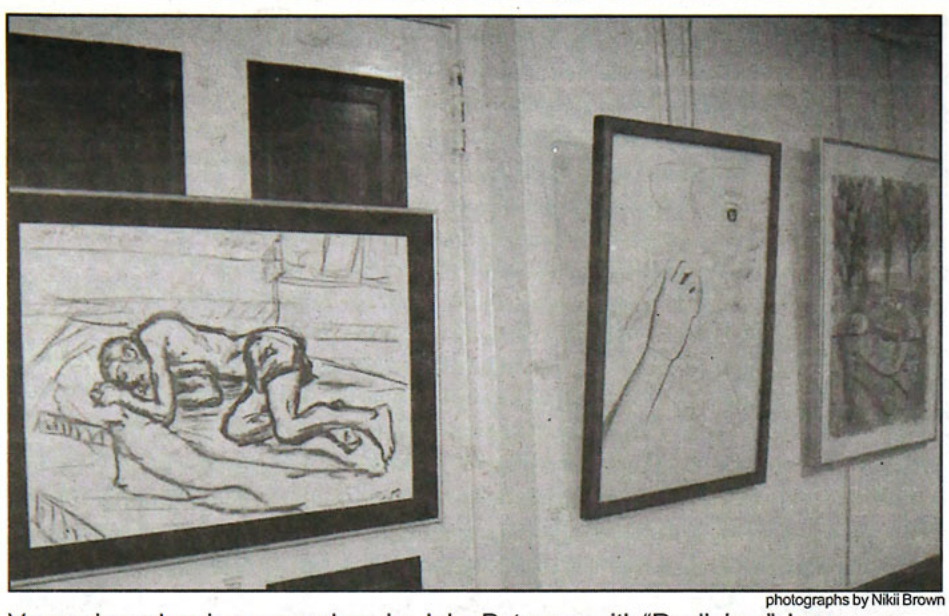
9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday, December 9

The day-long festival will include storytelling workshops and performances, examples of Native American storytelling, performance poetry, dramatic monologues and narrative art.

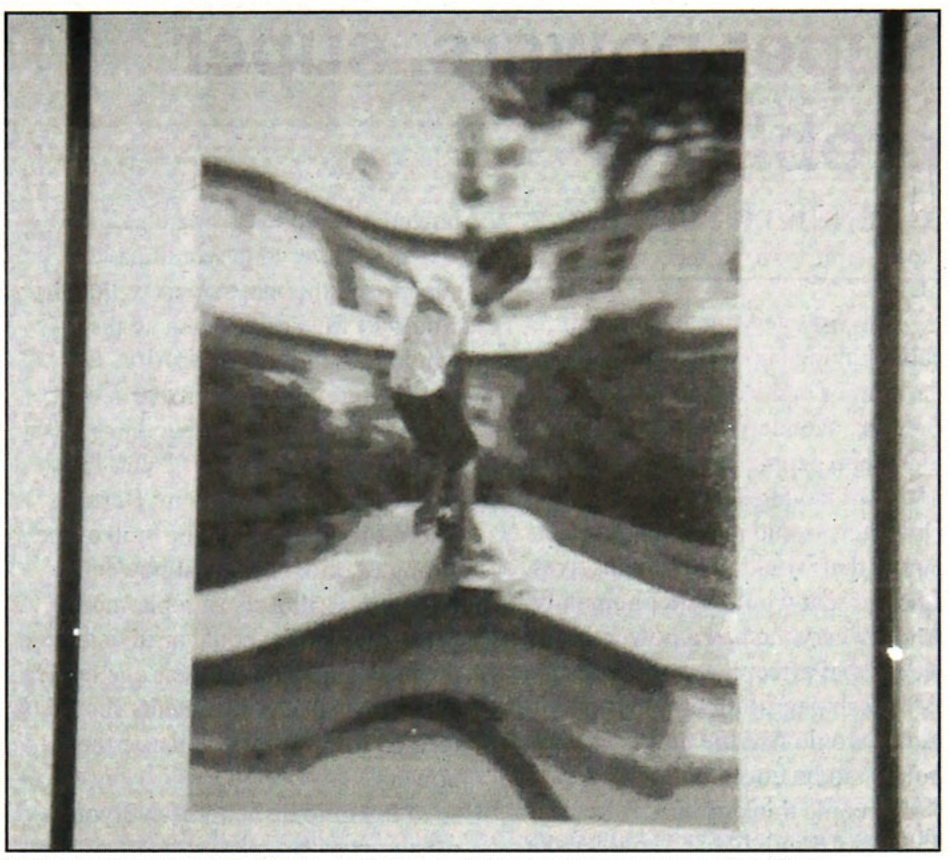
Write here

The Lions' Pride newsroom is located in portable #4, which is on the west side of St. Edward's Hall. Our phone number is (352) 588-8195. Send letters to the editor to lions.pride@saintleo.edu. Letters to the editor must be submitted with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department. Please include a phone number (not for publication) so we can verify authorship. All letters are subject to editing. *The Lions' Pride* reserves the right not to publich any letter or column.



photographs by Nikii Brown

Very unique drawings were done by John Peterson with "Reclining," James Cummings with "Time Rip," and Ashley Tyler.



Nikki Collins took this photo and decided on using the water color effect.

Display of talent for all to view

Talented students have an opportunity to have their work viewed.

BY NIKII BROWN
Lions' Pride Assistant Editor

With so many talented students on campus, it is hard to recognize them all. But, a few are on display in the lobby of Saint Edwards Hall, where there is a student art gallery for all to view.

"We have many talented students on campus whose works were never seen except by their classmates in their art classes," explains Dr. Mary Spoto, chair of the English department and a member of the committee for the art gallery. "We hope now the gallery will give both the University community and visitors a chance to see and enjoy student works."

On Tuesday, November 14, Saint Leo University students were introduced to the biannual Art Show. Art students displayed the projects they had been working on all semester in the lobby of Saint Edward Hall, and the projects will stay on display throughout the year.

Paintings, drawings, and photographs are showcased. There is an art show in the fall semester and one in the spring. There also may be a special show to display the work of select students. The students who produce pieces for the show come from the beginning painting, drawing, and photography classes, and there are possible pieces from the advance studio class.

There isn't an art major at Saint Leo, but the students are talented and the professors support the student's creativity.

"We believe it is important to showcase students' creative works because we have so much talent on the campus and believe the arts are a vital part of any liberal arts experience," Spoto said.

Professors aren't the only ones supporting the student's artistic talent. Every year President Kirk purchases a student art piece to be added to a collection of art work displayed throughout campus.

Shopping increases as the holiday season approaches

BY JAMIE PASCUCCI
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Every holiday season there are numerous items that are very popular. There are gifts everyone wants to get from their loved ones because they think it is going to make their holiday so much better if they get them. People know there is that special thing on their lists that they hope someone notices enough to get for them.

According to Newsday, the average consumer will spend about $790 this holiday season. Like armies taking over small countries, shoppers invade stores. The Friday after Thanksgiving is known as "Black Friday," where, according to Newsday, nearly 63 million people go shopping looking for holiday presents or to take advantage of the great sales that are offered.

Not only is there "Black Friday," but now there is also what is called "Cyber Mondays," which is the Monday after Thanksgiving. It is expected to be one of the year's biggest online shopping days. The week following Thanksgiving gives people who work in offices time to shop online in the workplace.

For those who like to shop in stores, many stores opened early and offered great prices the day after Thanksgiving. Wal-Mart has lowered its prices so much that competition like Best Buy and Circuit City are having trouble meeting the same prices as Wal-Mart's. For example, Wal-Mart had a laptop that was selling for $200, and only a certain amount were being sold; people were lined up outside the store for hours on Thanksgiving night just to be there when the store opened the next day. Stores like Wal-Mart, Best Buy, Circuit City, Kohl's, and Sears all opened at different times: some at midnight, some at 5 a.m., and some at 6 a.m. Employees were not shocked to see large lines outside waiting for the stores to open.

The hot items for this holiday season will require consumers to spend large amounts of money and to possibly wait in line all night; otherwise, they will not have them for the holidays. Some people who make a wish list for the holiday season may not have many things on that list less than $100. This season many are looking for the new Playstation 3. This is a hot item that most likely will not be purchased unless a person waits on a line all night. It will also cost about $600. Nintendo's Wii game consoles are also very popular, but it seems like people are mostly buying these when they cannot get their hands on the Playstation 3. Still, it is a hard item to get as well. This game console is actually selling for $650.

Mattel's TMX Elmo is an extremely popular item. Just like a few years ago when this item was flying off the shelves, it is doing the exact same thing for the 2006 holiday season. Tickle Elmo is selling for roughly $40 and looks like it will be hard to find online. Wal-mart is only selling it in stores.

Electronics are extremely popular when it comes time for the holiday season. The new ipod nano is a very hot item and will cost about $200. Also, digital cameras are always popular. There are so many different styles and price ranges.

The holiday season is not just about gifts and presents. Hopefully, most citizens are grateful enough to drop their spare change into the Salvation Army's pails as they walk out of the store they made their purchases in. Everyone needs to remember that the holidays are not just about gifts. They are about caring for others and being thankful for the ones in their lives they care about.

Super powers, super problems

BY JENNIFER THIMONS
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Almost everyone has dreamt about having super powers. Ever since the comics came out about Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, and others like them, people have toyed with the notion of having super powers. However, would people choose a power that would better themselves, or a power that would better humanity? And if everyone had a power, how would that affect the world?

Freshman Matthew "Bermuda" Lewis would like the power to read minds, so he could better understand what people think of him. If he knew what they didn't like, he could make himself better. When asked what would happen if the whole world had superhero powers, Lewis said there would be a lot of dead people. There would be no wars, explained Lewis, because people could just wish other people dead.

"If there was someone you didn't like, you could just think of them as dead, and they would be," said Lewis. "The rules would have to be stricter to govern the powers, such as certain zones where you couldn't use your powers."

The assistant director for Student Involvement, Jen Garcia, agrees that the rules would have to change.

"There should be rules for when, where, and how you use your powers. There should also be enforced punishments if the powers are used incorrectly. As long as you aren't affecting someone else, you should have the right to seek your own happiness in the use of your power," said Garcia.

Garcia believes that if everyone had powers, one of two things could happen. Either everyone would help each other and there would be world peace, or every power would counteract another and there would be complete chaos.

Lewis said if the president were to have powers, the best power would be the power of understanding. This way, the president would know what people want and what their actions are for doing things. There would be no need for security because if everyone had powers, said Lewis, security would be overthrown. It would ultimately lead to world destruction.

"I'd help people with my power because that's what I like to do," said Lewis, but not everyone would act the same way as him.

Henry Herrera, a sophomore who would like the power to fly, believes there would be world peace if everyone had super powers.

"It'd be nice if everyone used their powers to help everyone else," said Herrera. "Everyone would have to be supervised though, screened. People wouldn't trust each other, so there would be heightened security."

Herrera also agrees that the government would have to have rules for those who get out of hand. In regards to enforcing them, Herrera said the military would be built of the strongest, most deadliest powers.

Chris Grillo, also a sophomore, believes soldiers should be invisible so they can sneak up on their enemy. He also agrees that punishments should be created for those who misuse their powers.

"It would be better if everyone was born with a power; that way, they would be brought up around it and would be more able to control it," said Grillo.

Junior Mariel Colon, who would also like to fly so she can travel for free, not to mention having to skip all the new security checks, thinks there would be anarchy if everyone had a power.

"We wouldn't be able to control each other unless the army created a bio weapon that would strip someone of his power if he didn't follow the rules," said Colon.

One of the rules Colon came up with was just keeping everyone in check. She said everyone would be able to use his or her powers as long as it wasn't harming anyone else, which is what Garcia said.

"You wouldn't be allowed to laser beam someone just because he cuts you off in traffic," said Colon.

She believes the president wouldn't be elected based on what power he had, but based on his views on controlling the powers. She would also prefer the powers be learnable; that way, everyone was on the same playing field.

Senior Lizzie Seedhouse, on the other hand, said it would be more fair if people were born with their powers.

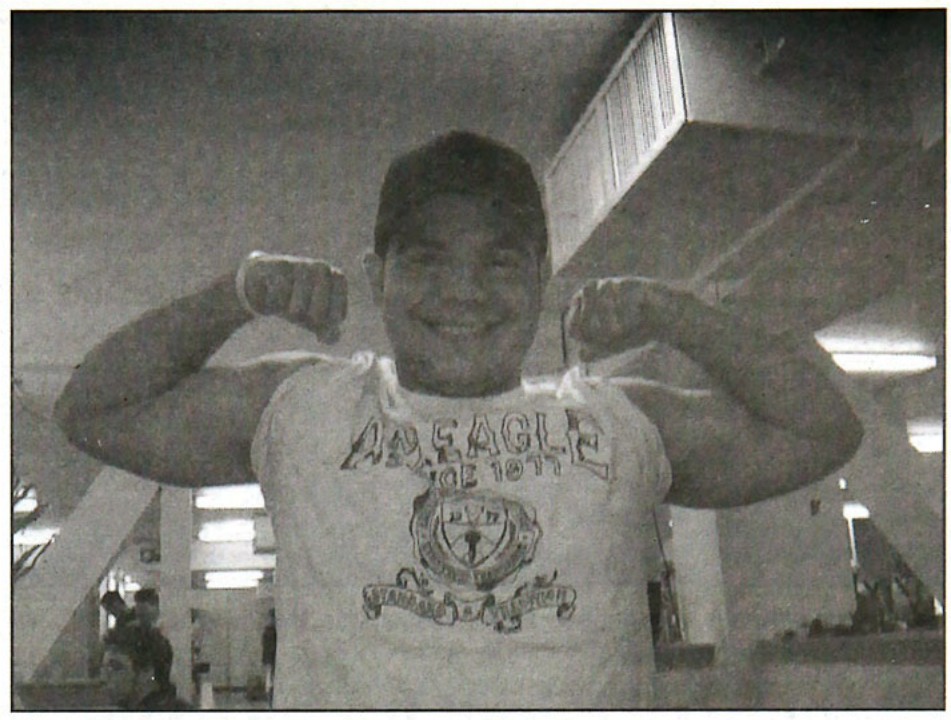
"If you would have to pay for training, the rich would get the best powers, and the poor would be left defenseless," said Seedhouse.

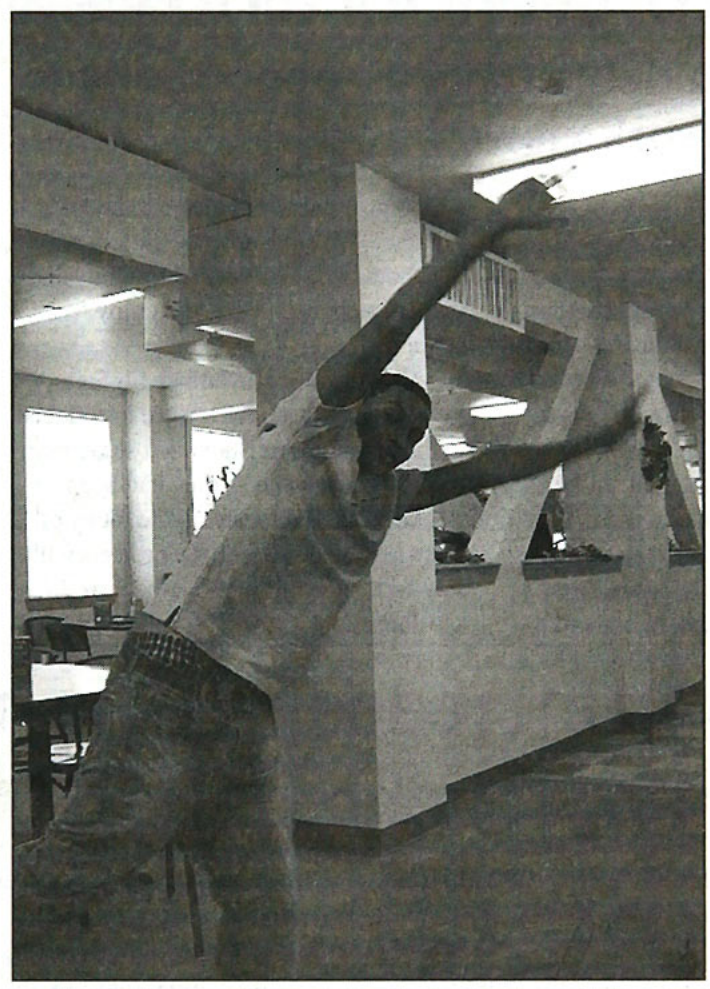
Joe Peplinski, a senior who would like to read minds so he can tell the fake from the real people, doesn't care how he gets his powers.

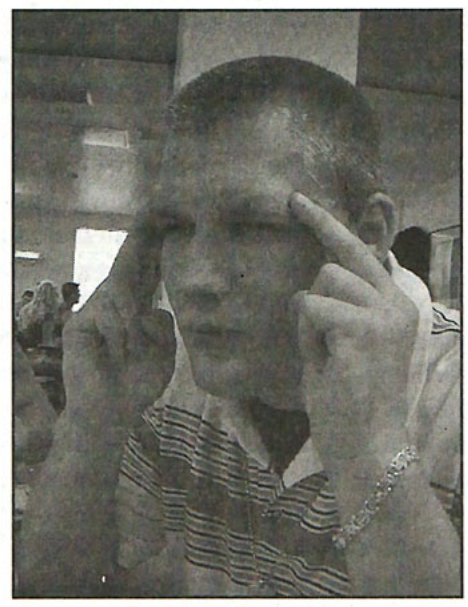
"I'd rather people chose, though, because I believe in free will," said Peplinski. He explains, however, that if people chose at birth, they would be more likely to choose a power to help mankind. But, if they choose later in life, their choice would be more self-centered.

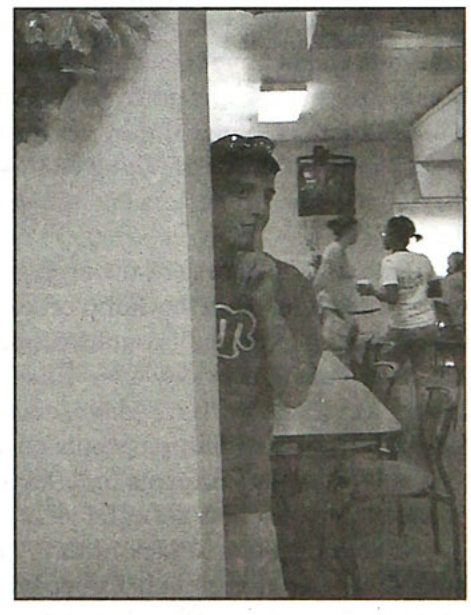
"It would be fun if the powers were learnable because then you could have multiple powers," said Peplinski. "Security would have to be more enforced and enhanced though. It would be much harder to defend things. It would revamp our entire way of life."

He also agreed the easiest solution would be to strip people of their powers if they got out of hand.









Clockwise: Brandon Cooke would like Superman's powers with no weaknesses, so he'd never be late to class and be able to challenge people for money; Henry Herrera would like to fly so he could get to everything before everyone else; Chris Grillo would like to be invisible, so he could sneak around and find out who is lying to him.He could verify everyone's story without being seen; Joe Peplinski would like to read minds so he could tell who is being real and who is just lying.

X-ray vision, flying, invisibility, morphing. All these powers can make a person seem like a superhuman and could essentially be used to help the world as well as the individual. The only problem is when that superhuman gets mad… I mean, nobody wants to be hit by lightning on *purpose.*

CHRISTMAS VISION CON'T

walk outside with your miftens and scarf on and see your breath, and all you want to do is run back inside, sit by the fire, and drink hot chocolate with some yummy whipped cream," said New Jersey resident Krystal Kirkland.

One thing people are sure to do no matter the location is listen to and or sing Christmas songs. Still, some of those lyrics to people's favorite Christmas songs bring about the image of a northern Christmas. "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire/ Jack Frost nipping at you nose/Yule tide carols being sung by a choir/and folks dressed up like Eskimos." Sing *Jingle Bells* and think about "dashing through the snow in a one horse open sleigh."

What does it do for people who have never seen snow, or ridden a sleigh, or made snow people? There are all these movies depicting a Christmas with these elements and not all of the states have experienced it.

"Santa went to Florida in a Christmas movie and it wasn't good. He was wearing beach shorts and sunglasses," said Tobin.

"It would be funny to see the big red suit in Florida. It's hot; he'll be sweating," said Guzman.

Why isn't the typical image a nativity scene and a palm tree? Perhaps, the snow covered landscape is the typical image because Santa lives in the North Pole where it's pretty cold. Well at Saint Leo, students can find their Christmas image with palm trees all around.

Members of Word Play perform in front of the dining hall; Kristin Brittain during a reading in front of the dining hall.

Word Play: a unique drama club

BY SIMONE WILLIAMS
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Look out Saint Leo, here comes the next big thing. Put your hands together for the new drama club, Word Play! Currently, the club is in the process of being made legitimate.

It is run by sophomore Jennifer "J.R." Thimons and held every Thursday around 6 p.m. According to Thimons, though, the time will be changing very soon.

"Word Play is going to be unique. It's not like other drama clubs. Everyone will get a chance to shine. Whether it be in a short skit, a reading, a scene, or an improve, each member will be able to act," said Thimons.

According to Thimons, Word Play is for those students who would like to be involved in drama yet didn't get into the production of the semester. It's also for those students who like theatre but don't have time to actually be involved in a production. And, let's not forget those students who just love to direct and have ideas for a play they'd like to see done.

"I love it. It's entertaining. I didn't really want to be in Pygmalion, but I did want to be involved in theater. This club is a great opportunity for me to express myself without having to compete with others. Everyone gets a chance to act," said freshman Kristin Brittain, an honorary member of Word Play.

Members of the budding club have just recently held a book reading in front of the dining hall. Students may remember going inside to eat and hearing excerpts from *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe.* Yes, that was done by Word Play members.

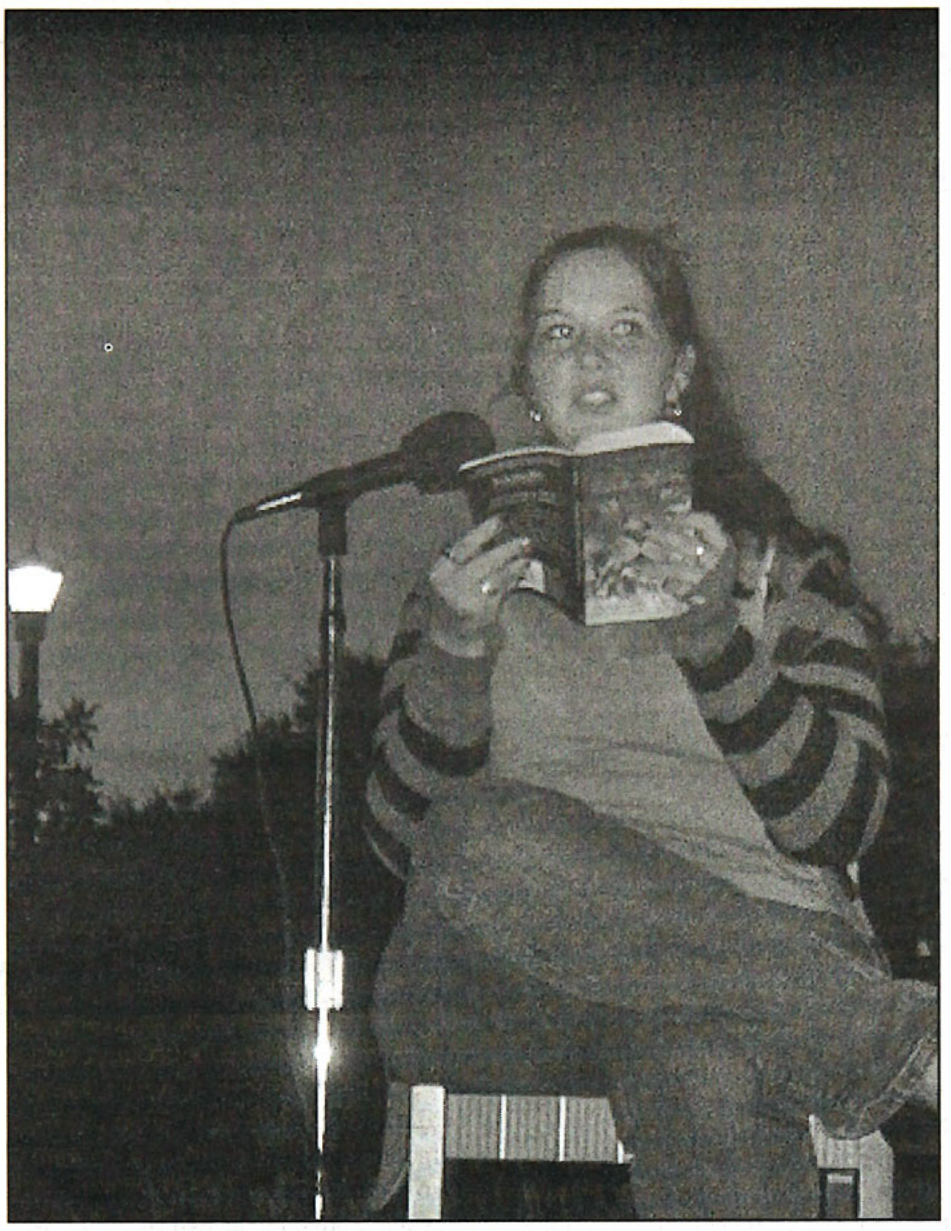
"I chose the dining hall because I know a lot of students go there. It's a really great way to get publicized. People actually stopped to listen. I was pretty proud of myself. We got way more attention than I thought we would," said Thimons.

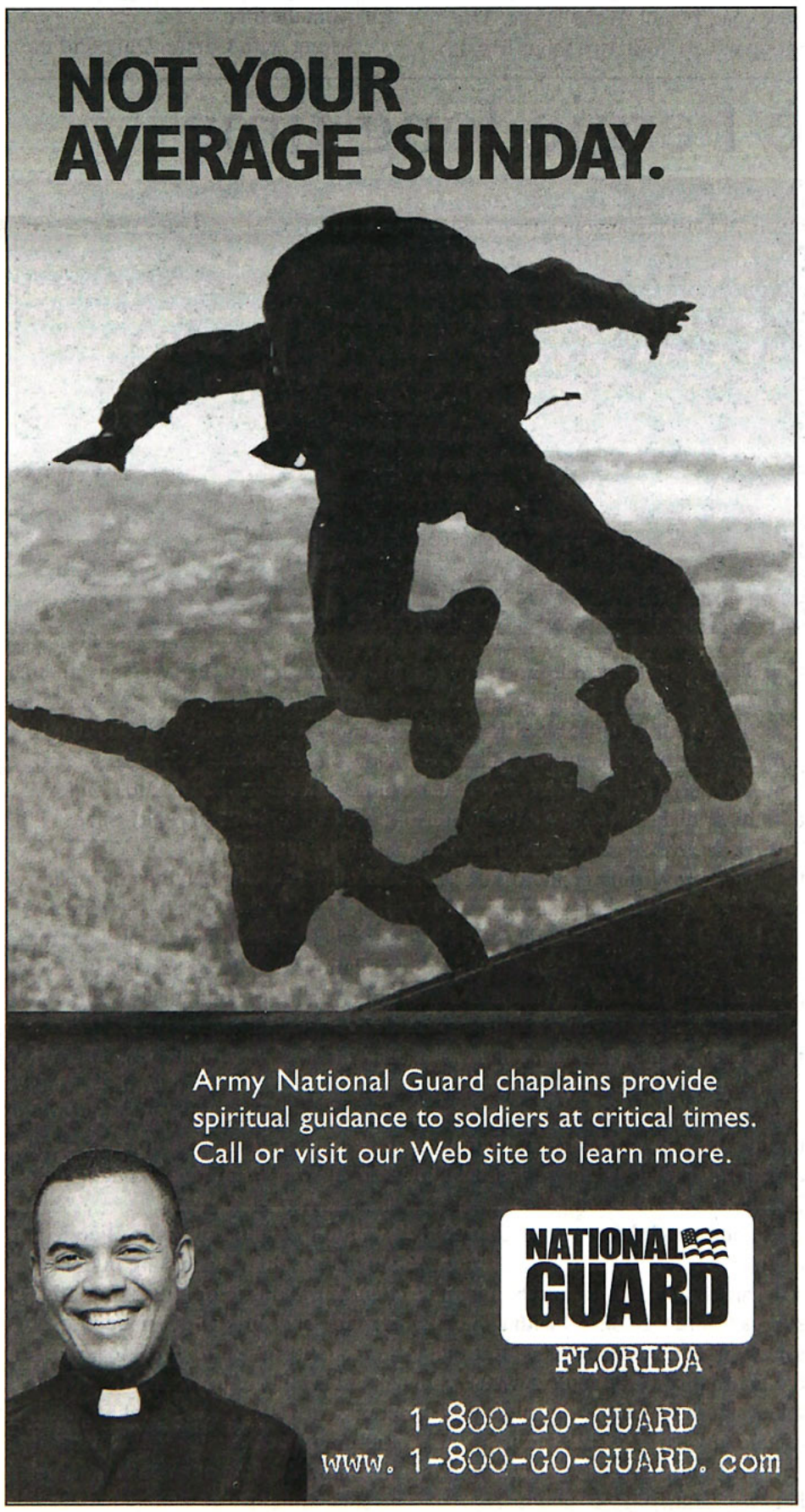
Dr. Charles Grimes, supervisor of the club, Brittain, and Thimons, as well as a few guest readers, all partook in the book reading. It was most definitely a huge success.

"Our next project is going to be bigger. We want students on campus to know about the club. We hope to stage something special in the dining hall, so keep a lookout," said Thimons.

She didn't give details, but from the look on her face, it's something interesting.

For more information about Word Play, Jennifer Thimons can be contacted at jennifer.thimmons@saintleo.edu or at extension 8034.





Chorus captivated audience

BY DIANA RUSSO
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Ding Dong Merrily on High!

Saint Leo University was filled with Christmas cheer!

On Tuesday, November 28, 2006 the Saint Leo University chorus captivated the audience of The Abby Church with a delightful opening performance during The Florida Orchestra Brass Quintet Christmas Concert.

Doug Reichwein, a member of the chorus spoke for the whole chorus as he commented, "The Chorus was fully prepared. The aquatics in the Abby were perfect."

The choir sang two old time favorite classics, *Carol of the Bells* and *Silent Night.*

Corey Bailey, another member of the chorus declared, "*Carol of the Bells* is my favorite song! It's a great classic. It is also challenging compared to the other Christmas songs we sing. I think the audience truly appreciated it."

The chorus' performance was a delightful introduction to the festive concert of The Florida Brass Quintet. After the band played, the chorus led the audience down a candlelit procession to the manger, stationed in front of the University. Here, the group gathered singing joyful corollas reflecting on the Christmas season.
This lovely event was lead by musical director Jeremy Sliverman.

"It felt wonderful leading tonight's performance. The choir worked very hard for this evening! I am proud to be apart of this organization," Silverman said.

Monday, December 4 was yet another special holiday event for the chorus. It was thr end of the semester Christmas Concert held in the Selby Auditorium by the chorus, concert band, and strings. The chorus performed classic s songs, such as *Frosty the Snowman*, *Ding Dong Merrily on High,* and *Come o Come Emanuel.*

"As a chorus student, I love singing *Come O Come Emanuel,"* Cari Faicco stated. "It is almost as if it's dark. It has a certain sound to it that makes this song different than the rest."

As the night when on, the auditorium was filled with the smiling faces of the audience members. The blend of the band, the songs of the chorus, and the surprise duets couldn't help but set the holiday sprit to all who attended.

Kaitlyn Bunker, a music scholarship student, mesmerized the audience as she played two beautiful songs on the piano.

"It's always fun to play in front of a lot of people, and I'm always excited to perform in concerts," Bunker said.

The chorus worked hard to provide such wonderful entertainment to not only the students and staff , but the public as well. After a long semester of many practices, the chorus pulled off yet another Christmas event that brought joy to everyone who attended. In Florida it may not be beginning to look like Christmas, however, thanks to the University chorus…it's beginning to sound like

Arts & Entertainment

Shakira is coming to town!

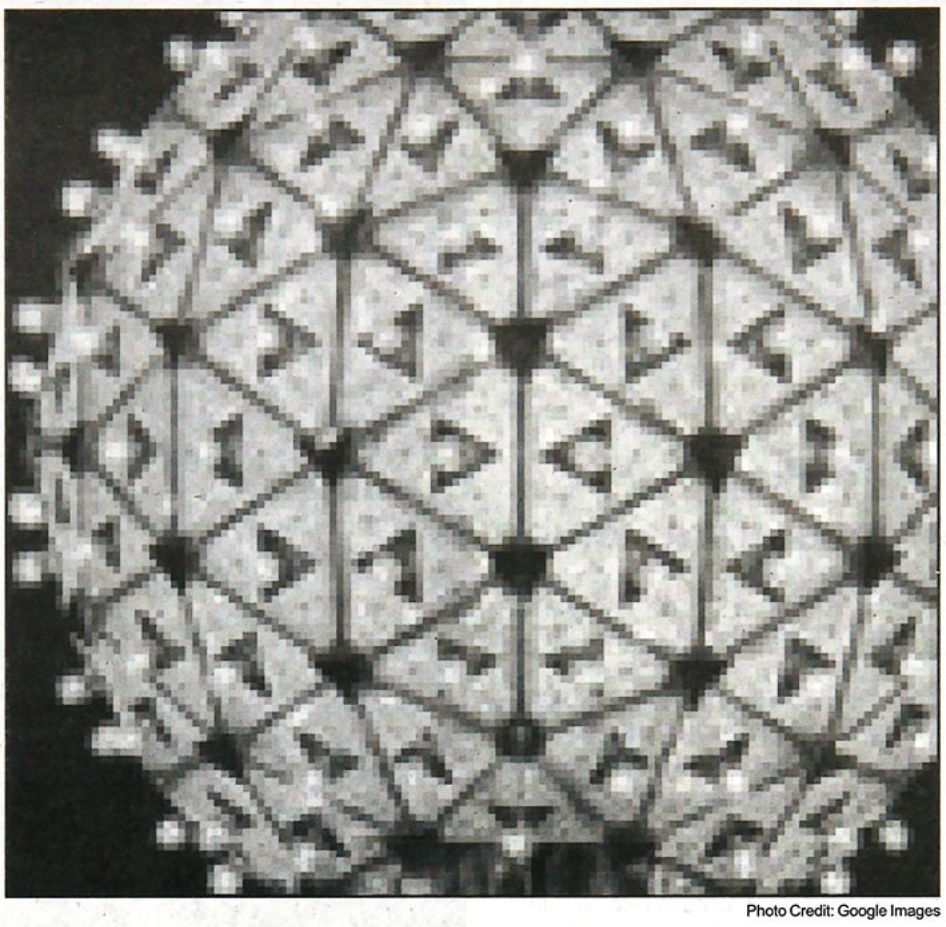


Photo Credit: Google Images

BY CAITLIN CRAFT
Lions' Pride Entertainment Writer

5…4…3…2…1 It is that time of year again. Time to break out the Champagne, to write those new year's resolutions, and to find the hippest party in town. For those students who plan on sticking around the Tampa area or those who live here, here are some of the festivities happening on December 31 before the ball drops and after.

For the thrill seekers who crave roller coasters, Busch Gardens is hosting special live entertainment in the evening and fireworks from December 27-30, followed by the New Year's Eve Celebration on the December 31. Hips don't lie at this party when Sheikra and other entertainers host a concert on Gwazi Field right before the firework finale at midnight.

Students looking for a rockin' New Year's Eve celebration, join recording legends Cyndi Lauper and Tower of Power as they celebrate 2007 with live performances at Universal Orlando Resort's Turn on the Night! Guests at Universal Orlando's annual New Year's CityWalk celebration will enjoy an all-you-can-eat gourmet buffet as well as nonstop dancing and entertainment throughout the night. Tickets to the event are $109, and ticket holders can upgrade to VIP for $60.

For those who just want to party it up at some of Tampa's finest hot spots, there are many clubs hosting exclusive parties. Big City Tavern in Centro Ybor is hosting a Design of the Times party, sponsored by 6 Footahs. Guests will dress up in clothes from their favorite decades as they ring in the new year. And, sports fans don't forget all the great bowl games that air on New Year's Day. The Outback Bowl will be played in Tampa's own Raymond James Stadium. The Florida Aquarium at Channelside is hosting a pre-Outback Bowl party on December 31 from 9 p.m.- 1 a.m.

For those who choose to enjoy an evening at home with friends and family, there is always Carson Daly and the ball dropping. *Carson and Friends* will air from 9 p.m.-4 a.m. Carson will have the help of the hottest band of the year to ring in the new year, Panic! At the Disco. The group will perform two songs live on NBC. Other ball dropping events will be during the performance of Mary J. Blige on Chevrolet's custom stage. Two redesigned Chevy Tahoes will be elevated above the crowd by 20-foot-tall hydraulic lifts.

Along with Carson Daly and the night's performers, Chevy hopes to make a statement that the new year needs to be lifted high above the crowd making it seem as though there is no other way to honor the past year and commend the coming year.

We love Fergie long time

Photo Credit: Google Images

BY NIKII BROWN
Lions' Pride Assistant Editor

Breakout solo artist Stacy "Fergie" Ferguson stepped back from the hip hop quartet, the Black Eye Peas, to release *The Dutchess*. With group hits like "My Humps," can Fergie make it on her own?

The first single off of Fergie's album was "London Bridge," and it is without any real substance and a knock off from a childhood song; it leaves some listeners clawing at their ears. It's not entirely unbearable. After listeners run into it a few times on the radio, they are sure to find themselves singing along at a red light.

Some of the lyrics for "London Bridge" are comical, and the way Fergie delivers them makes it fun to sing along to, but the chorus is tired. "How come every time you come around/My London/ London bridge/ wanna go down like/London/London/ London/ wanna go down like/London/ London/ London/we goin' down like."

The second release has been a mild hit, too. "Fergalicious" has a great beat and is sure to keep listeners on the dance floor or dancing in their cars. The lyrics don't serve a major purpose, but to tell about herself and how she's perceived. "Fergalicious/ definition/ make them boys go loco/ They want my treasure/ so they get their pleasures from my photo/You could see you/ you can't squeeze me/I ain't easy/ I ain't sleazy/I got reasons why I tease 'em/Boys just come and go like seasons."

Fergie seems to be confused in this album. One minute she's singly seductively with her usual deep, rich voice, and then on another track she has this baby voice that is not all that appealing. On the track "Glamorous," it starts off with a promise of a good track, but it's a let down until Ludacris' rap part.

One song that is definitely fun to sing is "Here we come," with a sample of the Temptations. Perhaps, the familiarity of the song is what makes it fun to listen, sing, and dance around to.

Fergie may be trying to find her solo identity in this album. The track "Losing my Ground" may not be a bad song, but it's hard to get past the likeness of another artist. Stacie Orrico's 2003 single "Instead" sounds close to "Losing my ground." But that's what artists do right? Share beats?

Another song that may do well is "Big Girl's Don't Cry." It will be a song to listen to when moving on from a relationship. "Hope you know, I hope you know/That this has nothing to do with you/It's personal/ Myself and I/We've got some straightening out to do/And I'm gonna miss you like a child misses their blanket/But I've got to get a move on with my life/Its time to be a big girl now/And big girls don't cry."

For the Ipod generation, Fergie's singles are great, one song in the middle of hundreds. It gets the body moving or at least the foot tapping, but then it's done before you know it. The album is mildly pleasing, and with two singles out and not too much quality on the album, it's time for Fergie to hit the studio for round two if she wants to stick around.

PR Department seeks student photographers

The Public Relations Department is hiring student photographers to attend events on and off campus. Financial aid and enrollment rules will apply to these positions, meaning campus work-study students are not eligible.

Students will be asked their availability to attend University events and be put on a rotating list of photographers. The PR Department will then contact students as needed.

Some of the events may include concerts, lectures, plays, meetings, or other events as needed. The hours will vary, so even a student with a very limited schedule may qualify.

While there are no guaranteed hours per week for this position, it is an excellent opportunity for a photographer to enhance a portfolio or to develop photography skills. The PR Department has digital cameras to use and stations for photographers to view their work.

The goal of the PR Department is to ultimately use photography shot by students in all of its publications. These include several that are sent to a national audience of alumni.

Other universities have used this practice in their publications with great success. As a teaching university, it is important to Saint Leo that every resource is used. This includes the resources we have available on this campus— our students. We believe that there are some gifted photographers on campus and we would be willing to pay for the opportunity to use your skills.

Please feel free to contact Jenny Timms at (352) 588-8572 or via e-mail at jennifer.timms@saintleo.edu.

BY CAITLIN CRAFT
Lions' Pride Entertainment Writer

He is back, and he is better than ever. Performing artist and president of Def Jam Recordings, Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter, has returned to the charts with his newest album, *Kingdom Come*. Three years ago Jay-Z retired as a recording artist and traveled down the business track of the music industry when he became president of the major recording company.

Jay-Z kicked off this new signature record with an unusual tour sponsored by Cingular. On Saturday, November 18, he played seven 30-minute gigs across the country. With each show, he picked up two lucky audience members to take with him to the next show. The shows ranged from Atlanta to Las Vegas.

The album that was recently released on November 27 is said to be the most anticipated album of the year. The album features other popular artists including Kanye West and Dr. Dre. In addition, Jay-Z will perform his new hit, "Show Me What You Got," on the day of the album's release during the American Music Awards, which will be broadcast by ABC.

With the beginning of Global Express Tour airing shortly after the release of the new album, Jay-Z has incorporated so much publicity for the new album. In just two and a half days, the single had over 16 million listeners within the radio audience and is already number one most increased song on the R&B/Hip Hop chart and debuts at 39 on the R&R/BDS Urban Chart.

As a president, as a recording artist, and as a lover of music, Jay-Z has to be happy about the way his fans reacted to his return from the other side of the music business and the release of the new album right before the holidays and the tour.

Diddy's got 'Press' Pass

BY NIKII BROWN
Lions' Pride Assistant Editor

After releasing the debut album of his hit new group Danity Kane, Sean "P. Diddy" Combs released his fifth album, *Press Play*. With so much time and effort put into producing Danity Kane, being CEO of Baby Boy record label, and running his own clothing line, does Diddy have time to make a hit album?

With collaborations on almost every track, maybe he needed help to pull it off. There are great voices sharing the album tracks with Diddy, though. Christina Aguilera, Nicole Scherzinger, Jamie Foxx, and Mary J. Blige are only a few. Diddy knows how to pick his producers too; Timberland, The Neptunes, Just Blaze, and Kanye West add their talents to the album.

The first track release, "Come to me," featuring Nicole Scherzinger was a hit upon release. It has a simple beat, but the rhythm is so smooth listeners can't help but to bounce to it. The bass in the song is sure to have listeners driving with their music blasting and subwoofers hitting sharp.

The lyrics for the two artists seem to be on two different pages. Diddy talks about his jewelry and how he has extravagant taste and people are screaming for him. "I make miracles like I walk on water/What you want mama order/ it's on my tab/I'm so bad with the cash/ I dropped the whole bag/Where you at girl?"

Then, Scherzinger sings about how she loves him and he stole her heart, and she calls to him. "I'm here when will you make your move? /I see you/ I am me,/I want cha/why don't cha/Come to me/ I can be/ what you need/ uh baby."

The second release features another hit collaboration. Christina Aguilera joins Diddy on "Tell Me." It is a dance song about being on the floor with that person who sends those vibes without the use of words. "I like the way you dance and the way you play the game/I like the way you take away the pain/the way you tell me that you want it/ not saying a thing/the way you got me going/ got me going' out of my brain/see us going at it/ going in and out of them lanes."

Diddy's lyrics in this song aren't too bad, but he raps about more than himself, but Aguilera's verses and chorus take over the song. There's no way to keep quiet when it plays. "Tell me/what you thinking about when got me waiting patiently/Usually I don't have to wait for nobody/But there's something 'bout you that really got me feeling weak/And I'm trying to find the words to speak."

Track nine is boring. The best part of the song is "Let me take you to Indonesia." The verses are almost monotone. Even with the guest talent of Twista and Shawnna and the beats of Timberland, the song is a flop.

In "The Future," Diddy has it all planned out. He's running a record label, a clothing line, and makes music, but why stop there? "Inject this dose of the future/tap them veins/ grab hold/ let me shoot ya/mainline this/ new Diddy heroin/the Afro-American dream is too evident/The potential to be the first black President."

Everyone has their dreams. "I am the future" is Diddy's.

Minus the optimism, Diddy has about being the future. The song isn't much of anything. It sounds more like slam poetry, and if that's what it's supposed to be then he nailed it; but otherwise, it doesn't work.

The last track on the album expresses how Diddy has grown through the years. Ready to settle down and be "Partners for Life," as the track is entitled, Diddy raps about how he has found the one girl who makes him feel like no woman has before, not even J-Lo. "I don't ever wanna let you go/It's a certain kind of feeling/ you know that feeling you get/ When your girl right and you know what's what/ uhh You got me on some lay low stuff/You stood by me/ all through that J-Lo stuff/Brush your shoulders off girl/ go 'head and brush 'em."

Jamie Foxx helps Diddy out with the touching song; however, it doesn't catch the listeners' attention. It warrants a second listen, and the message is nice, but it doesn't have the beats behind it.

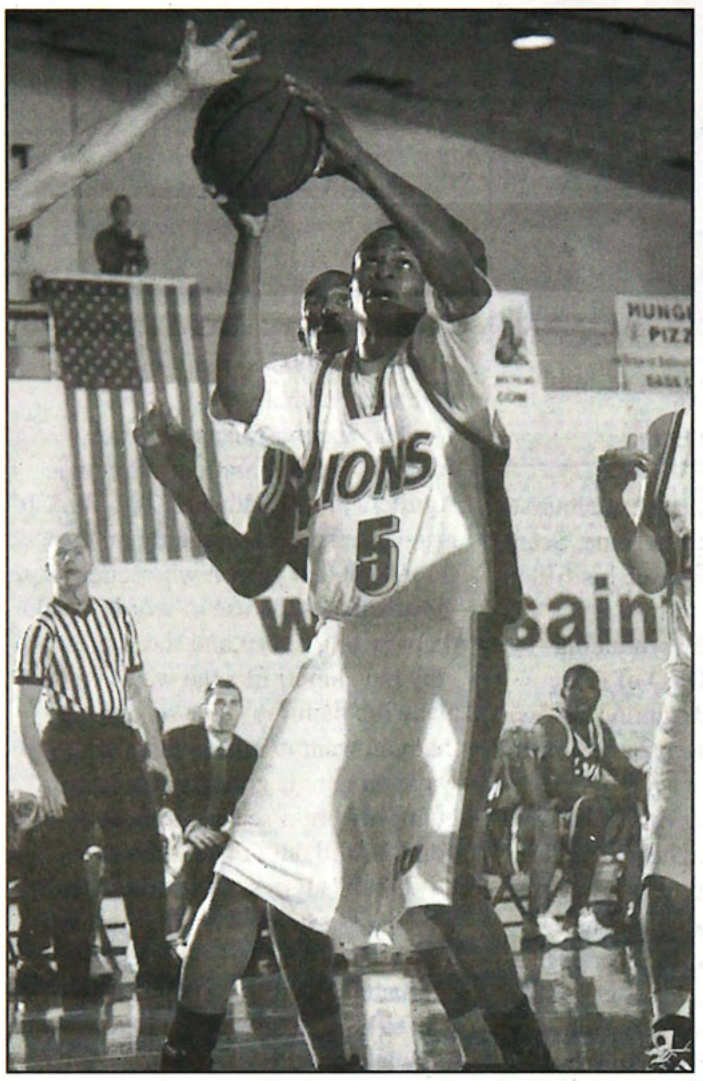
With the help from the other artists, Diddy made a bearable album, but he has lots of work ahead of him. This is the kind of album that will have listeners pressing fast forward instead of play.

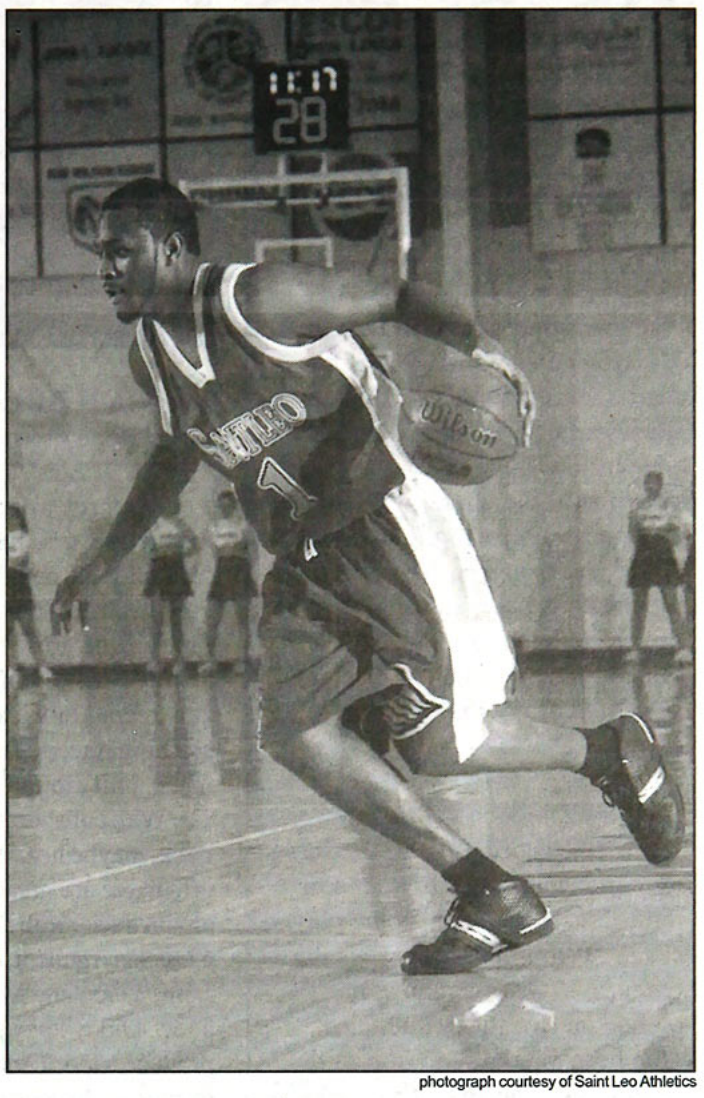
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from The Lionsí Pride

Sports

Saint Leo men's basketball opens the season

BY ALEXANDRA FARMER
Lions' Pride Staff Writer





George Eshesimua and Richard Blue

photograph courtesy of Saint Leo Athletics

The Saint Leo University men's basketball team has set a very strong tone to define it this year. They opened up their season at home Monday, November 27 with an 84-55 win over Southeastern University from Lakeland. They were led by strong senior leadership and the exceptional playing of new freshmen.

The Lion's team this year is very young. They have only three returning seniors: George Eshesimua from Miami, Fl; J.J. Turner from Tampa, Fl; and Richard Blue from Miami, Fl. All of these seniors are expected to see a good amount of playing time this season, even though there is a lot of competition for every position. This year's team is home to only one junior, Jonathan Banks, and eight freshmen.

Coach Madagan and Coach Runka are both excellent recruiters and have brought in a very athletic freshman class. All of their players have a lot of heart and determination to go with their high skill levels. Several of the freshmen have already made a name for themselves in this short season.

In the first home game of the season, freshman Thomas Kaiser put all of his first home college game jitters to good use, setting a personal record for himself. He scored a career and game high 16 points to lead his team to a smooth victory. The coaching staff has a lot of confidence in its freshman class this year.

"There is a balance of young and old with high energy and experience. The new faces (eight of them) add some experience, but are an assortment of youth, athleticism, and talent, which offers us an array of options offensively and defensively," stated assistant coach Luke Runka

In the Lion's first win of the season against Flagler College, freshman Quentin Cullop proved his coach right with a clutch jumper in the last minute and a half to send the Lions to victory. With all of the talent on this team, they are expected to go far this year. Several records are out there to be broken, and many are positive this team will be a serious threat in the conference.

Last year's overall record of 8-21 should easily be beaten this year. This is one of the youngest and strongest teams Madagan has put together. They all respond well to his aggressive and productive coaching style, and all have an uncanny drive to succeed.

The Lions are expecting a huge fan base to support them this year. All of the athletes on the men's basketball team are from Florida except one.

This is coach Madagan's sixth year coaching at Leo and hopes are high that it will be the best year to come out of this program ever. Their first conference game is at the University of Tampa on January 3, and their first home conference game scheduled to be played on January 10 at 7:30 p.m. against Eckerd College of St. Pete.

The SACC is having a competition between the athletic teams on campus to see which team has the most fans at each home game. They are also passing out t-shirts and including the crowd in a lot of different events at all home games. Students are strongly encouraged to come out and support their Saint Leo Lions as they fight their way to a victorious season!

"Somewhere all athletes can make a difference"

BY ALEXANDRA FARMER
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

The SAAC is a committee of athletes that every school in the nation has. SAAC stands for Student Athlete Advisory Committee. The SAAC on the campus consists of several athletes from every sport affiliated with the campus. Each team has at least one representative, and they are allowed to have as many as they want.

SAAC has been growing rapidly over the past few years and is making a huge difference in the athletic community. They have several goals for this year. They want to raise more money for the Make a Wish Foundation than they did last year. They have several ways they plan to do this. All of the athletic teams around campus are going to compete among themselves to raise a certain amount of money. Members of the SACC will also have raffles at all of the winter games this year. They will raffle off some very desirable items, such as gift certificates and other amazing prizes.

SAAC members also have a say in very specific things involving the NCAA. For example, they just voted on different bylaws for the NCAA's rules and regulations book, as well as working to make a homecoming possible as soon as next year. All of the construction around campus has been preventing them from having a homecoming event, but by next year they hope to pull all of those details together.

SACC is going to put up a bulletin board in the athletic hall for all athletes to look at and get a feel for what is going on in the athletic community. SAAC is involved in a lot of community service activities and wants to find different ways to get the surrounding community of Dade City and Pasco county to support Saint Leo's athletic events, as well as the student body of Saint Leo. A lot of students are not aware when games for each sport take place. It is SACCs job to inform them and get as many people as possible to the games to support the teams.

Several coaches have stepped up and have been a huge support this year. Woman's basketball head coach, Chanita Olds, and volleyball's head coach, Sam Cibrone, have been the two coaches to stand out this year, so far. They have gone over and beyond their call of duty, encouraging their players to participate and getting them involved in community activities.

"One thing we are working on now is encouraging athletes to come to meetings. Our saying is, 'Somewhere All Athletes Can Make A Difference (SAACMAD),' and this is so true. I want to encourage more athletes to come and get involved," stated SACC president Elizabeth Moore.

SAAC is a committee that does a lot of behind-the-scenes work and involves the student athletes in a lot of amazing events. All athletes should be encouraged to go to at least one meeting to see what it is all about. It is a life-shaping experience to be part of a committee with so much pull in the community.

Any athletes who have questions or students who want to be involved in community service events, please contact Elizabeth Moore at elizabeth.moore@saintleo.edu

Have a Safe and Happy Hanukah from The Lionsí Pride